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LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, JULY 4, 1874.

WHOLE NUMBER 68

CARDS

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Wool, Hides, Pelts and Country Produce taken in exchange. 63-1y

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Las Vegas Gazette.
LOUIS HOMMEL,
Editor & Publisher.

REMINISCENCES OF FORMER TRAVELS.

X

The town of Bernalillo, said to contain about fifteen hundred inhabitants, is stretched out for more than a mile along the highway, and to the passer by seems to be one of the pleasantest spots in the valley of the Rio Grande. Almost from the very minute the traveller passes the large ditch, which serves to convey water for irrigating purposes, as well as to supply the force necessary to propel the machinery of the flouring and grist mill of the Pecos, he enters into an alley of fruit trees and grape vines, the odors of which he inhales with delight. The line of these trees, on account of the narrowness of the street almost join, forming a splendid shade arch, from which to depart he is reluctant. After passing the orchards and vineyards of the town proper of Bernalillo, and before coming to the new town, called El Guanche by the natives, the citizens are erecting some four buildings of almost equal dimensions and construction, intended for convents of Christian Brothers, and perhaps too the Sisters, as educational institutions. As we have given our readers a chapter on the frauds of this kind of schools in the editorial columns of last week, we will pass them by in silence.

From Bernalillo there is now also a good wagon road to the mountains east of the town, leading to a splendid park around Las Huertas and Placitas more than a thousand feet above the bed of the Rio Grande, where the abundance of good timber has caused a saw mill to be erected and where, summer and winter, thousands of animals, horses, mules, cattle, sheep and goats, are kept to enjoy and benefit the luxuriant growth of pasture in the mountains.

If it would not be that nearly all, if not all, the lands in and around the Sandia mountains are claimed and held as private and community grants, we might have occasion now to record them to be the most densely populated and driving sections of all New Mexico; for gold, silver, lead, copper, iron and coal are known to exist there in paying quantities, some of the leads and placeres have been successfully operated since the first arrival of the white men to this country, while others were known to be in existence and proofs are in existence that some of them were worked even by the Indians, before the country ever was discovered. Now the most of the lands, agricultural and mineral, lay idle, because the grant owners have not the requisite energy to develop the resources of their vast domains, and outsiders are forbidden to locate thereon or prospect even the mineral riches.

Here we can point out again one of those great defects of New Mexico, which are so detrimental to the progress and enterprise and which are also the cause of a good deal of impatience and injustice.

The tax law of New Mexico provides that all property above the value of \$500, shall be taxed to a certain amount. If therefore a poor man takes up a homestead or pre-emption farm, improves it to be of any value to him, the assessor will come around and ask him how much he values his property, and if the poor ranchero does not tax his farm to the required standard, arbitrary measures are called in requisition to get the desired amount of territorial and county taxation out of him at all hazards.

But owners of grants containing thousands, hundreds of thousands and in some instances millions of acres of either good pastoral, mineral or agricultural lands; who, either themselves, their heirs or assignees, have not enterprise enough to develop their riches and therefore allow them to remain in dormant state; they of course are not taxed and why? because it might hurt their political friends or blood relations.

Thousands of dollars are thereby stolen yearly out of the treasury to uphold the wealthy shyks in their splendor and regime, to the detriment of the poor, industrious laboring classes. Should an American or foreigner, though, purchase one of those grants, then as quick as lightning the property is taxed, and if the amount is not forthcoming, the effects or real estate is knocked off under the auctioneer's hammer, to pay the delinquent taxes.

This is one of the reasons why the nabobs, those fellows who generally wind whole counties, mouse and man, around their fingers, were so elated about the State

Question. They wanted to form a government of their own choice, fill all the offices with their friends and enact laws for their benefit, before "outsiders" as Americans are called, could come here.

But to return to our travels. From Bernalillo it is called six miles to the Indian village of Sandia; as there is nothing of consequence to be recorded here, they living the same as all the rest of their tribe, we will pass on a couple of miles further to the place where the Rio Grande left its proper channel to devastate the country around Albuquerque.

Riding about one and a half miles after leaving Sandia, and leaving behind the agricultural fields and rich bottom lands of common pasture which these Indians have in their possession, the road lead formerly along the bank of the river. A few years ago the Rio Grande also overflowed this whole bottom, cut a bed through the sand towards the hills on the East and obliged the citizens of the Albuquerque Valley to turn out in force. An embankment was thrown up to the height of three or four feet and the river subsiding, the current took almost its old channel, and after a year or so; young cotton-woods and willows sprang up, as if by magic, all over the bottom, and by degrees the stage coaches and in fact all the travel passed right along the edge of the river, though sandy to the extreme, rather, than to take the more circuitous road, of all sand and gravel, at the foot of the hill, above the irrigation ditch.

As the river made an elbow at the place where the embankment was thrown up, the owner of the mill about a mile further south thought this to be a convenient place to take the water out of the river for his mill race, and therefore erected a brush dam right at the angle, so as to throw the current against the bank where the ditch commenced.

The amount of snow which fell last winter in the mountains, the streams of which are tributaries to the Rio Grande, caused an immense rise in the river as soon as the spring sun commenced to thaw it out, and embankment being only of earthwork, with a sandy foundation underneath they fell an easy prey to the rushing waters which swept everything before it. The whole of the inundation, with all the disasters arising therefrom had its origin in the confidence of the inhabitants that the river would either not rise high enough, or if it did that there was no danger of its taking away earthworks. If even a small party had been in attendance day and night, either watching or hauling stones and brush from the neighboring hills, all the ruin to property, life and grain could have been avoided, and as the river has by this time settled enough to enable the citizens to cover over and fill up the breach, we hope it will be a lesson to them for all time to come.

What a sad spectacle presents itself to our vision as we continue on the road for the next ten miles. The little town of Alameda, where Don Antonio Lerme had taken so much pains to make his premises and the neighborhood around him attractive; the grave of cottonwoods once so enticing to the traveller to lay down in its shade during midday's parching sun; all have disappeared, leaving in their stead pools of stagnant water.

From there on down to the residence of Don Mariano Yrisarri, at Los Ranchos, ruins of houses and former agricultural fields, can be seen all along the road. Only the embankments of some irrigating ditches saved the country around there from utter annihilation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
June 9, 1874.

The following is an act of Congress approved June 6, 1874:

AN ACT to amend the act entitled "An Act to promote the development of the mining resources of the United States," passed May tenth, eighteen hundred and seventy two.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That the provisions of the fifth section of the act entitled "An Act to promote the development of the mining resources of the United States," passed May tenth, eighteen hundred and seventy two, which requires expenditures of labor and improvements on claims located prior to the passage of said act, are hereby so amended that the time for the first annual expenditure upon claims located prior to the passage of said act shall be extended to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy five.

By this legislation the requirements of the fifth section of the mining act of May 10, 1872, and the amendatory act of March 1, 1873, are changed by extending the time for the first annual expenditure upon claims located prior to May 10, 1872, to the 1st day of January, 1875.

The requirements in regard to expenditure upon claims located since May 10, 1872, are in no way changed by the above amendatory act.

S. S. BURDETT,
Commissioner.

Of the adult population of San Francisco, about one-third take their meals at restaurants.

CLIPPINGS.

Iowa has one hundred counties.
Indianapolis has eighty-two railroads.
Trenton boarded 6,065 scamps last year.
2,000 gulls visited Duluth the other day.
Iowa erected 1,266 school houses last year.
There are over 60,000 Patrons in Kentucky.
Ohio's champion baby weighed eleven pounds.
Dentists make from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per year.
Chicago has only eleven "heretical" ministers.
An Inman steamer made the trip in 7 3/4 days.
A Baltimore library loans 3,200 books per month.
Memphis has 180 lawyers to offend and defend her.
There are 40,000 commercial travelers in the U. S.
New Jersey had 305 railroads accidents during 1873.
Peru's Guano "crop" is estimated at \$100,000,000.
Maine's ice crop will reach nearly two million tons.
One convict escapes from Blackwell's Island every day.
Nine hundred national troops defeated 2,000 Carlists.
Saratoga is erecting a regatta-stand to hold 5,000 people.
The Gloucester shad net was more than a mile long.
500,000 Circassians have immigrated from Russia to Turkey.
Concord, N. H., weekly records 38 inches of snow in April.
Syracuse, N. Y., turned out 42,000,000 pounds of salt last year.
Nearly 250,000 bricks were frozen in Reading, Pa., last week.
Twenty nine steamers will "plough" Lake Superior this season.
More than 2,000,000 votes were cast in the late English election.
A Reading man is the father of 41 children. Seek no farther.
Illinois has four feet of mud, and is happy because it isn't snow.
A trout 14 inches long was caught in the Schuylkill the other day.
There have been eighteen collectors of the port of Boston since 1789.
Twenty thousand immigrants arrived in Gotham one day last week.
London had 762 periodicals printed within its limits in February.
One company at Montpelier sold 11,000 sleds for children, last winter.
Of 500,000 men who took the pledge in this country, 550,000 broke it.
A Michigan manufacturer has 18,000 broom-handles ready for shipment.
There are seven insane asylums, with 3,000 insane persons in Massachusetts.
More than 13,000 persons in Maine over ten years old can neither read nor write.
In San Antonio, Texas, there are 1,000 Americans, 4,000 Mexicans, and 2,000 Negroes.
The total Grange membership in the United States is now estimated at 1,250,000.
There were 202 deaths in Brooklyn in one week lately, over one half being children.
It is estimated that Tulare County, Cal., will, this season, export 325,000 sacks of wheat.
One hundred and thirty four immigrants lately arrived at Sacramento on one night.
Forty thousand cattle are said to have perished in Utah and Nevada during the winter.
The Milk Condensing Co. of Elgin, Ill., are about placing 80,000 trout in their reservoir.
Nashville has been heard from—Amount invested in the Louisville Lottery, \$2,500; prizes, \$0.
The total export of silk from China for the season of 1873-4 is expected to be about 57,000 to 58,000 bales.
America imported one hundred and fourteen lawyers, and two hundred thirteen physicians last year.
Germany has now 50,000 Old Catholics, organized into 92 societies, which are ministered to by 31 priests.
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